

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and the following remarks are responsive to the Office Action mailed April 22, 2004. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application.

Claims 1-25 are pending. Claims 15, 17-18, 22, 24, and 25 have been amended. Claim 19 has been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-18 and 20-25 are presented for examination.

Claims 8, 15, 16, 19 and 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner objected to the presence of "reference characters" in the claims. The Applicants respectfully submit that the term "ID" is not a reference character, but rather a standard abbreviation. When the term is first introduced, as in claim 17, it is typed out as identification, and the abbreviation is included in brackets. The claims then use the abbreviated form of the term, ID. This is not a reference character, and makes no reference to any element in the figures. All reference characters in the present application are three digit numbers. Properly identified abbreviations are permitted in the claims (see MPEP 608.01m). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as based on a disclosure which is not enabling. The Examiner suggests that the "application" is considered essential to perform the processes of claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is a method claim, and includes all of the necessary method elements needed to practice the invention. The "application" is neither necessary nor logical to include in such a method claim. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1-24 are rejected under U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for

failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended the claims to more clearly claim the subject matter conceived.

Examiner rejected claims 1-6 and 10-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,499,106 issued to Yaegashi, et al.

Yaegashi is designed for disks that are physically delivered to a known location, and include a location to disk ID correlation. (column 9, lines 20-26). When a user wishes to access the information, he logs into an information access system 130, 140, 150 using his unique user identification and password pair. The information access system 130, 140, 150 then reads the disc identification information 200 and sends its unique remote location identification number and the disc identification information 200 as an access request to the central access control system 100 via the bilateral communication link 132, 142, 152. (column 9, lines 46-54). In Step 10, the information access system 130 requests the decryption key by transmitting its remote location identification number (a public key) and the disc identification information 200 to the central access control system 100 via the bi-lateral communications link 132. (column 12, lines 29-33). Yaegashi does not teach or suggest the use of session keys transmitted along with a disk ID.

Claim 1, as amended, on the other hand, recites:

A method of providing secure access to content comprising:
determining a secure medium identification (disk ID) from a secure medium including content;
sending an encrypted session key and the disk ID to a server;
requesting user authentication; and
if the user is successfully authenticated, receiving a decrypted copy of the session key from the server to enable reading of the content on the secure medium.

(Claim 1, as amended). Yaegashi does not teach or suggest sending an encrypted session key and the disk ID to a server. Rather, Yaegashi sends a remote location identification key, which is identical in each case, and not session based. Therefore, Yaegashi does not anticipate claim 1, as amended. Claims 2-16 depend on

claim 1, and incorporate its limitations, and therefore are not anticipated by Yaegashi for at least the same reasons advanced above with respect to claim 1.

Examiner rejected claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,636,966 issued to Lee, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,236,727 issued to Ciacelli, et al. Examiner rejected claims 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,636,966 issued to Lee, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,236,727 issued to Ciacelli, et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,499,106, issued to Yaegashi, et al. and Schneier.

However, Examiner noted that claim 19, if rewritten in independent form would be patentable over these references. Applicants have amended claim 17 to incorporate the limitations of claim 19, which were found to be allowable by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 17, as amended, and claims 18, and 20-24 are allowable over the references.

Examiner rejected claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,499,106 issued to Yaegashi, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,236,727 issued to Ciacelli, et al.

Applicants have amended claim 25 to recite a limitation found allowable by the Examiner, associating a user with a disk ID. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 25, as amended, and claim 26 which depends on it, are allowable over the references cited.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Judith A. Szepesi at (408) 720-8598.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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